

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 5-7 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Response, claims 1 and 4 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives during the interview conducted on October 18, 2006. During the interview the difference between the claimed subject matter and Fukuchi was discussed. The Examiner stated he understood that the embodiments of the present invention were distinctive from the teachings of Fukuchi. The Examiner, however, requested some modification of the claim language to provide clarification of this distinction. Applicants note that independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to provide such clarification.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fukuchi, et al. (US 6,546,334). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In embodiments of the present invention, specific road segments of map data are represented and identified by identification information. At least two types of road segments are represented, these being original links and alternative links. The original links are identified by link identification information and alternative links are identified by auxiliary link identification.

The alternative links replace an original link when updating of that specific area of the road network is necessary due to newly constructed roads. The alternative links are related to the original links in terms of how they are defined, thus a chain of how the new road segments were obtained is created by this naming configuration. This system allows for the map data to be updated on a road segment basis thus ensuring accurate updating and road configurations while also recognizing a relationship between an original link and an alternative link.

Fukuchi, however, teaches a system contrary to the claimed invention. Fukuchi teaches a system in which map data for a car navigation system is stored in numbered blocks representing segments of map data. The display obtains a certain number of the block of data that represents the displayed map data. When data corresponding to a certain block requires updating, an old block is replaced with a new block and provided in the same spot as the old block on the display. This data is received by broadcast from a map data delivery equipment used to send updated blocks of map data. This is disclosed in Fukuchi at least at column 6, lines 25-30, which states “the present embodiment 1 is configured such that the entire map consists of a plurality of the partial map areas, each of which has the partial map area identifier for identifying the position in the entire map and the version number of the partial map area data block.” Thus, Fukuchi does not identify segments of roads and perform updating of the map data on the segment road basis.

Specifically, nowhere in Fukuchi does it teach using link identification information corresponding to a part of a road and auxiliary link identification information in order to recognize relationship between original and alternative links of road map data. Fukuchi merely teaches replacing the block of map data with a new block of data, Fukuchi does not teach using

link and auxiliary link identification information for original and alternative road links as in embodiments of the present invention. Further, Fukuchi does not teach that an original road link is associated with a plurality of alternative road links.

Therefore, Fukuchi fails to teach, *inter alia*, link identification information identifying a plurality of original links, each of the original links represents a part of a road constituting an actual road network, and auxiliary link identification information used for identifying a plurality of alternative links each of the plurality of alternative links replacing at least one of the plurality of original links in the map data, wherein the link identification information for each original link replaced by the alternative links is associated with the auxiliary link identification information for the alternative links, whereby a map data processor recognizes a relationship between the original link and the alternative links, as recited in claims 1 and 4 and incorporated in claims 3 and 8.

Therefore, in view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that Fukuchi fails to teach each and every features of claims 1-4 and 8 as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 8 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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Amendment dated December 19, 2006

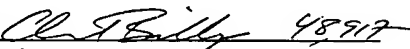
Docket No.: 1163-0472P

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number of the undersigned below in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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